

Sowers & Seeds

January 2024 • Volume 1, Issue 1



THE RELAUNCH ISSUE

FEATURING

*YOUTH PRAYER, FACILITY EVENTS, VOLUNTEER
ACTIVITIES, NEW SYS STAFF, GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES*

Contents

Director's Corner 3

A Youth's Perspective 4

Activities with Youth 5-7

Saintly Saturdays 8-10

Bible Bowl and a Volunteer's Perspective 11-12

Volunteer Activities 13-15

Staff Activities 16-19

Open Position 20

Gratitude 21

Ministry Spotlight 21

Volunteers Needed 22

Hope Bags 23

Announcements 24-26

La Perspectiva de un joven 27

Bible Bowl/La Perspectiva de un voluntario 28-29

Enfoque en ministerio 30

St. Rose Philipine Duchesne 31

Contact Us 31

Special Youth Services (SYS) models the embrace of Christ through pastoral care, advocacy, and faith sharing in local juvenile justice centers, facilities, and programs including the promotion and coordination of restorative services to at-risk youth and their families. Our ministry encompasses all counties within our local Archdiocese, working with youth from ages 10-17.

Sowers & Seeds is a quarterly newsletter published with the purpose of sharing the voices of our youth and volunteers, activities of SYS, and information that may be beneficial to the spiritual life of the reader.

Special Youth Services (SYS) modela el abrazo de Cristo por medio de cuidado pastoral, apoyo, y compartir la fe en centros locales de justicia juvenil, instalaciones, y programas incluyendo la promoción y coordinación de servicios restaurativos a jóvenes en situación de riesgo y sus familias. Nuestro ministerio abarca cada condado entre nuestra arquidiócesis local, trabajando con jóvenes de edades de 10 a 17.

Sowers & Seeds es un boletín informativo trimestral publicado con el propósito de compartir las voces de nuestros jóvenes y voluntarios, actividades de SYS e información que pueda ser útil para la vida espiritual del lector.

Director's Corner

Welcome to the new Special Youth Services newsletter!

Formally known as "The Oratorio," we offer "Sowers and Seeds." With a new look and new format, you will find helpful information, training opportunities, updates of past events, and upcoming events. If you would like to be a part of this periodical, call us, we would love to hear from you.

In the parable of the Final Judgment, Jesus makes it clear what His expectations of us are: to feed the hungry, give drink to those who thirst, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit those in prison. To care for the human needs as well as the spiritual needs of the people of God, particularly the least of our brothers and sisters, is certainly the call of volunteers in ministry. I cannot express in words the importance of your work to SYS. Without you we could never reach so many youth. You bring spiritual food and drink to them at a time when they most need it. Your faithfulness, love and genuine care for them are obvious, not only to us, but most importantly, to the youth. Each youth we serve is unique with unique life experiences, but there is one absolute truth, God loves them. Because of this amazing love, whatever the children have experienced in their lives, whatever they may have done to find themselves in the juvenile justice system, they always know when someone really loves them. Your ministry brings the love of Jesus and the love of this local Church to the kids, and we can never thank you enough for your faithful service.

Your sister in Christ,

Franchelle





We are the Lord's

As St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Romans, we are the Lord's. We invite you to prayerfully consider giving to DSF this year. When you do, you will help provide essential support for 64 ministries of our local Church and serve those most in need in His name. www.archgh.org/dsf

SCAN HERE TO MAKE A GIFT →





A YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE

A Conversation between Deacon Fernando and a young brother in Christ, J.D.

Deacon Fernando: How long have you been here at Gulf Coast Trades Center?

J.D.: Five months.

DF: What was your relationship with God before you came to the facility?

J.D.: Just starting. It's the beginning of a new story with God.

DF: How is it now?

J.D.: Come a long way. A Work in progress. Working on self. God answers me. Blessing after blessing. Gone pretty far.

DF: How has SYS (Bible Study w/ Deacon Mike) helped your relationship with/understanding of God?

J.D.: The readings. I feel like every time I have a problem in the week, the reading will be about that. Like the readings from last week, humility, and I was having issues with my temper.

DF: Why do you go to Bible Study every week?

J.D.: To keep myself closer to God. And

to learn more about self. Everything about myself is in the Bible.

DF: Can you explain what Bible Bowl is?

J.D.: It was a competition to keep you on your toes. It's about knowing God and inviting others to know Him. The next week we had a bigger week [in Bible Study].

DF: Tell us about your experience that day.

J.D.: Felt it was in God's hands. Some questions I didn't know but instinct made me toss it out there and got it right. Felt hesitant of competition because of others really, but looked forward to seeing how they did and learned.

DF: How did you feel when your team won?

J.D.: Felt good about myself. Closer to God. Like, "I'm God's kid."

DF: What message do you have for kids to invite them to a relationship with

God?

J.D.: Ask them, "What's going on in your life?" The Bible has it.

DF: What message do you have for kids who are going down the wrong path?

J.D.: Find a better way. The wrong way is an ugly dark path like being stuck in the woods and just looking around. Don't know where you are going, just stuck.

DF: What message do you have for parents?

J.D.: Try to get closer to your kids. Don't try to shove them into the right path. Talk to them and softly tap them.

DF: Anything else you would like to say to our readers?

J.D.: Atone yourself. From today's reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29.

Blooming Seeds



Deacons Mike Krall and Fernando García and Sister Symphonie praying with the boys

Bible Bowl

SYS hosted the first Bible Bowl at Gulf Coast Trades Center in September 2022. Read all about the fun event in “A Volunteer’s Perspective” on page 8.

In October 2023, Bible Bowl was also held at Harris County Youth Village. Sr. Symphonie and new staff member and pastoral minister Linda Love hosted an evening of fun competition between both the girls and the boys at the facility.



The appetite of a teenage boy



Buzzers are ready to go!

Fall Fun

SYS donated a patch of pumpkins to Harris County Leadership Academy in Fall 2022 and 2023 to be used for the youth's jack-o-lantern painting contest. There were many great designs that showcased the young men's artistic talents.



Works of art!



Pumpkin Palooza

Serving Students

Students in the Strake Jesuit College Preparatory Key Club held a service project in October 2022 and collected art supplies and games to donate to Harris County Youth Village. These young men showed true servant leadership and shared fun and joy with grateful youth.



Deacon Fernando with Key Club members.

Epiphany

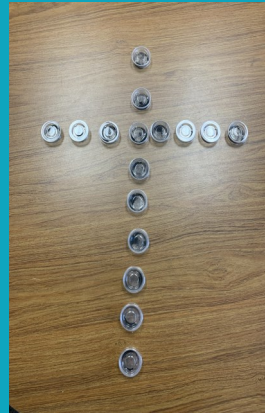
The youth at Fort Bend were visited by the Three Wise Men (and a wise lady!) in January 2023 to celebrate Epiphany. Along with the visit, the youth enjoyed a piece of King's cake while hearing the story of the pilgrimage to baby Jesus and singing along to Christmas carols.



Fort Bend Volunteers

Ash Wednesday

SYS Ash Wednesday services were back in person in 2023! Every facility received volunteers who led a prayer service and ash distribution for youth and facility staff. We are very glad we are able to share this beautiful tradition year after year.



Blessed ashes



Volunteers at Leadership Academy

Faith A/live

Father in Heaven. I come to you Lord, in need of your grace I asked you to continue to keep me safe. Give me continued life, and keep me healthy Lord. Father forgive me of my sins. Forgive me for the hurt, pain, and sorrow I have brought to others. Teach me to know you and live my life as you wish. Let me see the way is through good deeds, love towards my fellow brothers and sisters. Father, watch over my enemies, bless them and their families. Teach them forgiveness, compassion, and love.

Teach them through your spirit Lord the way to a good life is through love, forgiveness, and compassion. Remove the stone that maybe in their hearts. Replace it with your love and fill that place with promise of a life that will be satisfying. Let there be no room for regret. Protect my enemies, as you protect me. Fill their lives with love abundant so, they shall not dwell on their loss. I Pray this in Jesus name Amen.

Above is a prayer written by a youth at the Harris County Leadership Academy. The young man is a frequent visitor to the weekly Bible Study and his faith continues to grow with each visit from volunteers.

Hope Bags

We had many wonderful ministries and individuals reach out to us to make Hope Bags, write letters, and donate snacks for our youth. Thank you to: the O'Driscoll family, St. Edward's Youth Ministry, Prince of Peace Spanish Faith Formation program, Notre Dame Young Adult Ministry, St. Christopher's Youth Group, Nhóm Ca Nguyễn at Christ the Incarnate Word, Rice University Catholic Student Center, and friends at St. Dominic Chancery. Read below about the experience of the O'Driscoll's putting together Hope Bags as a family and with the youth at St. Edward's.

"I must admit that it was my wife's idea.

We have always discussed finding more ways to instill a sense of service in our children, but she is the one who would plan for us to volunteer at the food pantry or sort donations for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

As they have grown (they are now in middle school), we have been searching for ways to make the service we offer more relatable to them. When my wife told me about the Hope Bags project from Special Youth Services, I was excited about participating but nervous about whether it would be too much for our children. Would they want to hear about young people their own age in juvenile detention? We do not try to shelter our kids from the realities of the world, but I wondered how they would respond to a discussion on this topic.

Thankfully, and partially to my surprise, their responses were full of compassion and sympathy. They dove into the project with enthusiasm, decorating bags with colorful expressions of hope and prayers. They asked questions about what the young people who would be receiving them, what would go inside the bags, and why someone their own age might end up in a juvenile detention facility.

Over the summer, we decided to share the Hope Bag project with more junior high students at our church. The parish was offering a junior high summer series on Sunday evenings. It was a diverse group of teens, but we were hopeful.

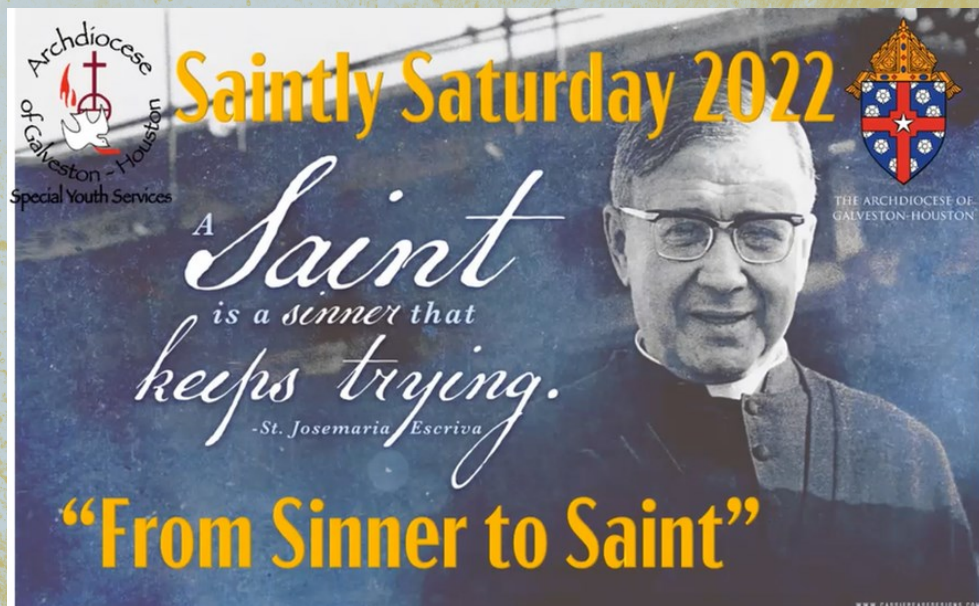
It was an amazing night! As we discussed many of the same questions that my own children had asked, we saw their minds come to an awareness of how their actions would affect their peers. They reflected on the idea of not being able to go home and sleep in their own beds, or to see their family and friends. They talked about the concepts of redemption and forgiveness. They prayed for those who would receive the bags.

Through such a simple task, just some markers and a paper bag, we saw these young people become aware of people their own age who were in need. More importantly, they learned that they were not limited by their age when it comes to making a difference. They can bring hope to others. They can be hope in our world today."

Written by Sean O'Driscoll, Senior Communications Manager at the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

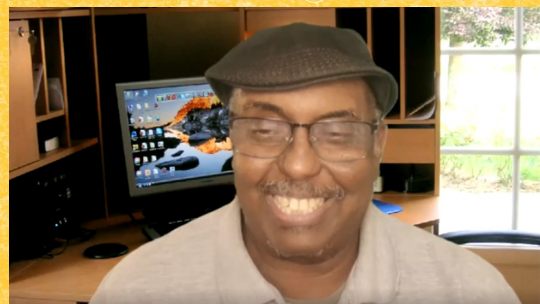
Want to participate in a Hope Bag project? See page 24 for more information.





We had another successful virtual Saintly Saturday on November 5, 2022 where we broadcasted to HCLA and HCYV. Around 100 kids participated in this afternoon filled with music, speakers, entertainment, and prayer. Volunteers signed on to show their support and let the kids know they are praying for them. The afternoon started with a special message via pre-recorded video of Daniel Cardinal DiNardo sharing the importance of God's love and that our kids are cared about not only by him, by our church community. We then presented our first super special guest speaker, former SYS pastoral minister Deacon Dan Gilbert. The kids were happy to see his face after he had retired and were attentive as he shared stories from his childhood and what the journey from sinner to saint can look like. He took time to answer great questions that they had. Next up was a dear friend to SYS and Catholic rapper, Carlos Zamora also known as C2Six. His session began with one of his many music videos and then he shared his lifelong conversion story and how he became a Catholic rap artist. The kids were intrigued by his talent and story and asked him many interesting questions. He closed off with an impressive freestyle rap and another music video. Although the event was virtual, we continued our tradition of showing the Everything skit and giving pizza to the kids. We are so thankful to facility staff, SYS volunteers, and our wonderful guests for making this a fun and faith-filled afternoon for our kids.

Pictured below from left to right starting at the top: Cardinal DiNardo sharing special words with the youth; guest speaker Deacon Dan Gilbert; HCYV staff; attending volunteers; musical guest C2Six.





Deacon David Jeziersky-Leadership Academy

“Great!” “Awesome!” “Peaceful,” “Successful,” “Amazing!” “Fun,” “Holy”. These are just a few of the ways that I heard Saintly Saturday 2023 described by the Katy Leadership Academy residents, staff, and volunteers. For the first time in a few years, Special Youth Services was able to hold Saintly Saturday live and in person for the youth in one of our facilities. Everyone that was involved and participated spent the day soaking up God’s graces through prayer, sharing, singing, activities, sharing meals, fellowship, and joyful celebration.

The event began with a lot of excitement when a live band led everyone in songs of worship and entertainment. All participated in moving to the music and setting a cheerful tone to the day. In our first visit back to KLA after Saintly Saturday, the music was the most mentioned activity that everyone seemed to enjoy.

The day then moved to the first speaker, Cesar Lozano, also known as “Big Cease”. Cesar is very familiar to the S.Y.S. ministry because of his time volunteering at JDC and speaking at previous Saintly Saturdays. Cesar brought a powerful testimonial to the young men in attendance as he shared his life story of overcoming many obstacles and how his faith in God played such an important role in leading him to where he is today. Also known as the rapper “Big Cease”, Cesar connected to several of the residents with two of his faith-based rap music videos. Through the day, many of the young men sought out Cesar to talk with him individually.

During lunch, each of the four units utilized their teamwork to create a themed poster demonstrating how to transform from sinner to saint. All of the posters showed their tremendous talents in illustrating the conversion from a life of sin to a life that is Christ-centered. The poster chosen to be the best example was rewarded with a special treat.

The day became more focused with an extremely effective skit representing the power of God’s mercy and love through the simple act of repentance and reconciliation. This was followed by speaker Father Paul, who provided the young men with real-life examples of redemption and overcoming challenges when we follow God’s will and allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was offered to all who chose, and spiritual direction was also provided as requested.

The day was complete when all attended Mass with Cardinal Daniel DiNardo presiding. His presence and message were greatly appreciated by all, and he made sure to recognize everyone in attendance as well as personally greeting each of the residents. What a wonderful experience for everyone that were able to attend. God is good! All the time.”

Father Paul Hoang is a chaplain for the Archdiocese Correctional Ministries. Although he only ministers to imprisoned adults, he took the time to visit our kids as a key note speaker and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Saturday





A Volunteer's Perspective

Deacon Mike Krall-Gulf Coast Trades Center

About six years ago, the Archdiocese was handing out social ministry assignments to deacon candidates. I dreaded the idea that they might put me into prison ministry. The thought made me terribly uncomfortable, and that scared me even more, because God tends to send me places where I don't want to go. Sure enough, my assignment was to work with Special Youth Services to serve those in the juvenile justice system. Praise God for how He pushes me to where I do not want to be.

I was assigned to Gulf Coast Trades Center (GCTC), a facility in New Waverly that focuses on educating high school aged boys in trades like automotive repair, carpentry, bricklaying, or culinary arts. With the skills they learn, they are capable of finding worthwhile careers and growing quickly into independent adults.

All of that sounds lovely on paper, but I had no idea how to handle this assignment. I drove out each week to lead a Bible study with a small group of guys. It started with two and grew slowly to groups of up to 12. I hope they didn't see it, but every time I

made the drive, I was nervous and wondering how in the world I was going to teach them anything. The meetings went fine, but I'll admit that it was hard for me.

Probably what shook me out of my discomfort was a prayer from one of the boys. At the end of each Bible study, I would close by leading a prayer. One time, a participant asked if he could pray after me. When I agreed, he offered a beautiful thanksgiving. What absolutely made me melt was his opening: "Thank you, God, for sending these people here to acknowledge us." He didn't thank our Father for sending people to teach them or to have fun with them. This young man thanked God for the very simple fact of *acknowledging* their existence. I learned such a lesson from his prayer. My success in this role wasn't anything I *did* at the Bible study. There wasn't any need for eloquent Scriptural speeches. I didn't need to impress them. Instead, what I needed to do was to simply show up. My drive, my preparation, my work with them was all a reminder that they are loved

by others and that our love for them represented the love of God.

That moment of prayer was one of my most impactful SYS moments, but no experience has been more fun than our recent “Bible Bowl.” The SYS staff joined us to host an on-site game show – complete with buzzers! Several of the residents joined the competition, creating four teams that vied to win the grand prize: a hot Burger King dinner! As each question was displayed, the players clicked a buzzer. The first one to answer would shout out the answer. Right or wrong, there was excitement and laughter with every response. For me, it was a joy to witness all the fun. The most enjoyable moments were witnessing the interaction of the young men. The players rejoiced when they gave right answers to tough questions. When one of the less confident guys got an answer correct, everyone would cheer like he had scored a touchdown. Sometimes, I was worried that their jumping and fist-pumping celebrations might be too much, but after each round concluded, the teams happily shook hands and congratulated each other. Every report from the guys since that day has been to share how much fun they had and to ask when it would happen again. Even though their regular facility dinner concluded shortly before the Burger King arrived, the winning team was thrilled to have the bonus food. They gulped it down victoriously.

Somehow, six years at GCTC have flown by. Franchelle, Alejandra, Deacon Dan, Deacon Fernando, and now Sister Symphonie have all put up with me and my silly sense of humor. In a world where many businesses are inefficient, top-heavy organizations, SYS is a small but mighty team that has served thousands effectively. The love of God is obvious in what the staff does and what they offer of themselves. All of us volunteers carry that same love to the youth who need so desperately to have some awareness of their value in the eyes of their Heavenly Father. Many thanks to all of you who serve along with me!

“There wasn’t any need for eloquent Scriptural speeches. I didn’t need to impress them. Instead, what I needed to do was to simply show up.”

The *Seed* Planters

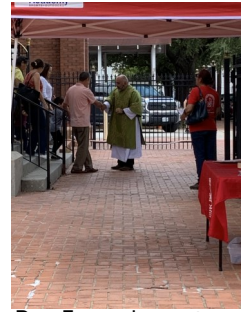
The Harvest is *Plentiful*

We were very fortunate to have been able to do an in-person recruiting event last year at both St. Joseph's and St. Stephen's on August 6 and 7, 2022. Deacon Fernando served at all Masses and shared about SYS during his homilies. Sr. Symphonie and Alejandra manned the SYS table, handing out information and signing up interested future volunteers for the informational meeting we held on August 10. We were happy to speak to so many people, from those who were interested in volunteering to those who pledged prayers for our youth. We send an enormous thank you to the pastor of St. Joseph's and St. Stephen's, Fr. Victor Pérez, for opening his parishes' doors to our ministry and for all the support he gave us. We also thank the business manager, Anahí González, for all her support in getting us set up and making us feel like part of the parish family. To learn more about these parishes visit saintjoseph.org.

Pictured on the right are eight of nine new volunteers that answered the call during the St. Joseph/St. Stephen recruiting weekend, along with veteran JDC volunteers. We welcome married couples, singles, those in discernment, religious, and others to our volunteer family! For more information, visit www.archgh.org/sys or email us at sys@archgh.org.



St. Joseph's Catholic Church



Dcn. Fernando greets parishioners after Mass



Homily at St. Joseph's



Fr. Victor & Dcn. Fernando at St. Stephen's



Volunteers visiting the prayer labyrinth

The Power of *Silence*

With the hustle and bustle of our everyday life, it's good to take the time to step back and relax. A time to catch our breath. On Saturday, February 25, 2023, several SYS volunteers did just that as they attended The Power of Silence, our SYS Lenten retreat. Held at the Villa de Matel, the retreat was led by Sr. Pauline Troncale and offered an opportunity to reflect on the power of silence in our life. Through her guided discussion and time of silent meditation, volunteers then used their experience in SYS to discuss the many forms of silence encountered by our youth in detention including the need to be heard. It was a fruitful time of faith development, fellowship and great food as well. A special thanks to Sr. Pauline who led the retreat and Sr. Symphonie and the Villa de Matel who were amazing hosts for our retreat.

Language of *Love*

Do you know your love language? Do you know God's love language? That was the purpose of the 2023 Advent retreat. Our volunteers came to first find their primary and secondary love language, then explored what might be God's love language to each of them, and finally how to apply their own preference of giving and receiving love to their prayer life.



Learning about love languages



SYS hosted the Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training for volunteers in collaboration with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing on May 13, 2023 and October 21, 2023 at St. Dominic Chancery. The presenters, Haitrieu Nguyen and Grace Shay, did a wonderful job training our volunteers to recognize signs and symptoms of mental health and substance abuse challenges, understand how to interact with a young person in crisis, know how to connect a young person with help, and better understand trauma, substance use, self-care, and the impact of social media and bullying. We will be holding another training in 2024.



Fortifying our *Treasures*

The SYS Volunteer In-Service on July 30, 2023 was a fun, productive day of prayer, discussion, and fellowship. SYS staff provided tips, resources, answers to questions from volunteers, and hands-on activities to enhance the already great work the volunteers do with the youth. Volunteers had the opportunity to work in small groups not only to discuss common asked questions from the youth, but to play the roles of leader and youth in a Bible Study setting in order to learn from each other from the different perspectives. We thank our volunteers for their attendance and the valuable input they contributed throughout the day.



A great turnout!



Clergy Corner

We are *Growing*

We are very excited to add five new diaconate candidates from the Class of 2025 as well as three Vietnamese Redemptorist seminarians to the SYS volunteer family! Having joined us in August 2022, David Skouby, José Cárdenas, Joseph Barber, Brad Snyder, Freddy Pilataxi, Tinh Nguyen, Vinh Nguyen, and Bao Tran began their ministry at JDC, Leadership, Fort Bend, Brazoria, and Gulf Coast counties. Since then, Tinh, Vinh, and Bao have been sent to Thailand for their immersion year with the poor and next year will take their perpetual profession of vows.



Newly *Ordained*

Diaconate ordinations were held this year on February 17 and 18 at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Three SYS candidates have now joined the permanent diaconate (pictured from left to right with their families): John Kyle (Brazoria), David Jezierski (HCLA), and Paul Nguyen (JDC). Please keep them in your prayers as they live this special call.



New *Seminarians*

This summer, the Holy Spirit led two Archdiocesan seminarians, Dimarg Fontenelle and John Paul Phillips, to SYS to serve at JDC. In addition, we received two more seminarians in the fall: Wesley Henry and Orlando Herrera. Since the first day they all started, they have made a great impact on the youth, providing a listening heart and encouraging Sacraments. In November, they participated in Mass with Cardinal DiNardo at Saintly Saturday. Please keep our seminarians in your prayers, pictured from left to right: Dimarg, John Paul, Wesley, and Orlando.



Staff Shots

Catholic Advocacy Day

On March 28, 2023, SYS was present in Austin, TX representing the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston at the bi-annual Catholic Advocacy Day, hosted by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops.

Delegates from the arch/dioceses visited with their legislators to advocate for parental choice, child protection, expanded postpartum Medicaid coverage, and abolishing the death penalty for severely mentally ill. Sr. Symphonie and Alejandra also discussed issues that affect our youth with legislative representatives.



Daniel Cardinal DiNardo speaking

Nun Run

On October 15, 2022 and October 7, 2023 Sr. Symphonie participated in the CHRISTUS annual Nun Run. This charity event invites motorcyclists to take a ride from Villa de Matel to Top Water Grill in San Leon, accompanied by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word Houston. At the end of the ride, there is lunch, entertainment, and door prizes. Bishop Italo blessed the ride upon departure. Pictured bottom right is Sr. Symphonie with motorcyclist and HCLA volunteer, Grady Dyke.



“The Nun Run brings the best of motorcycles and our community together to support **Keeping Children Healthy through CHRISTUS School Clinics**. This fundraising event provides vital healthcare services to children in nine schools. Because of your support, school children in some of Houston’s most underserved communities, receive access to healthcare, immunizations, and mental health counseling, keeping children healthy and productive during the school day.” For more information about this annual event or to make a donation, visit <https://christusfoundation.org/2023-nineteenth-annual-nun-run/>.



Helping with *Transition*

Many of our youth have difficult transitions back home. In order to facilitate the process, SYS donated toiletries to Community Unit Probation Services (CUPS) to ensure youth had proper items for good hygiene. “CUPS provide community supervision and rehabilitative services for young people and their families and are located throughout Harris County.”

Long time friend and former associate director of SYS, Carrie Davila helped coordinate the donation for the CUPS unit. In continuation of the great work with CUPS units, she has been promoted to Facility Administrator of Harris County Leadership Academy! We congratulate her and have her in our prayers.



CUPS receiving toiletries

Deacon Fernando

In June 2023, Special Youth Services said goodbye to Deacon Fernando. We celebrated his five years (plus two as volunteer) with us with a chancery get-together, snacking on pan dulce and horchata. Many friends stopped by to share their warm wishes for Deacon as he transitions into his new position as the director of Admissions and Scrutiny of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate. Just as we consider him a forever part of the SYS family, he also does not forget about us! The following is an article he wrote for the Texas Catholic Herald on August 15, 2023:



Every day, in Harris County alone, several hundred youths ages 10 to 17 reside in juvenile detention centers. Lost in despair and hopelessness, these youth turn to volunteers of Special Youth Services (SYS) who offer an encouraging word, inspiring Scripture and comforting prayer to see them through their difficulties. Coming from all walks of life, laypersons, religious, and clergy, all work in the vineyard together, serving some of the most vulnerable youth.

And whether it's offering weekly Bible studies or pastoral visits, it is the Holy Spirit continuously at work in the hearts of the youth, and just as equally in the hearts of the volunteers, no matter how experienced or seasoned they are, myself included.

During my diaconate formation years, I, along with several other candidates for the diaconate, entered the vineyard as SYS volunteers.

Assigned as our social ministry, it was our opportunity to practice what we learned through formation, where the "rubber meets the road," as some would say. For me, that road would eventually lead me to work as a pastoral minister for SYS.

However, whether as a volunteer or pastoral minister, I saw what they meant in the diaconate program that we are never done being formed.

I recall one day in particular that seemed like so many others spent in the facilities, filled with God's teachings through individual prayer, pastoral listening and a lot of catechesis. As the conversation with one young man was winding down, he asked about my plans for the evening. I said I was attending the vigil for my friend's mother, who passed away. We finished our conversation and concluded with prayer, lifting up his petitions to God. As we stood up and shook hands, he said in a solemn voice, "I'm sorry about your friend, sir."

Here I stood before a young man who was at a loss. Without his freedom, his family, friends and home. Having lost so much in the middle of his chaos, he stood there comforting me! The rubber had met the road as my years of learning were tested, and I was found wanting.

How often had I allowed my own chaos to blind me from the pain and suffering of others, diminishing the gravity of their situation based on my own situation? Humbled by the young man's empathy for me while still dealing with his situation, it was I who had been taught the lesson — a lesson that is still not forgotten.

Recently I returned to the diaconate formation program; however, now in the role of director of Admissions and Scrutiny for the Office of the Permanent Diaconate.

While I still found opportunities to stay connected and serve SYS, I have a greater understanding and appreciation for the value of social ministries assigned to the candidates to the diaconate.

Whether its visiting detention centers, prisons, hospitals or other facilities, social ministries like SYS continue to offer candidates to the diaconate an opportunity to practice what they've learned, but more importantly, they offer continuous learning opportunities for them, helping in the formation process and refining the skills of the potential deacon.

Sister Symphonie

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (James 1:17)

January 24th, 2022, was my first day with Special Youth Services. When people knew that I visited the youth in the detention centers, they often asked me why I chose to minister there. To this moment, I believe God led my way to this beautiful ministry. The more I reflect on my time serving the youth, the more I thank God for giving me this life-long experience, which I may not find elsewhere.

When I mentioned the locations, such as Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gulf Coast, JDC, Leadership, and Youth Village, they are not just the names of the facilities but also the uniqueness of the construction of each one, the staff, the environment, the culture and especially the youth. Being with the youth, they taught me to be patient, to listen non-judgmentally, to gain awareness of injustice and the courage to fight for it, and most of all, to accompany our youth in their journey to recognize and accept God's bountiful mercy and love for them.

To SYS volunteers - you are my inspiration! Whether rain or shine, you would show up no matter what (unless the

administrative team did not ask you to stay home.) Thank you for allowing me, a newbie, to serve with you. I have enjoyed my time at this great company – such a wonderful group of people. I will miss you but leave with lots of happy memories.

To the SYS core team - Thank you for welcoming me to the team. I am grateful for your support and encouragement during my time with you. Thank you for entrusting me to extend the mission of Special Youth Services to our youth.

My Congregation asked me to return to the Motherhouse and to learn to be a formator for the new discerners. To do that, I just finished a month of training as a spiritual director at the Ignatius Retreat Center in Guelph, Canada. I am now preparing to go to Rome for a Formator Program. While I am excited about my new role, moving on was a tough decision. SYS is an exceptional ministry, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with you all.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for you all. And may the God, who...

“...is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)”.



Welcome!

We are happy to introduce you all to new SYS staff members: Administrative Assistant Cristina González and Pastoral Minister Linda Love. Please give our new staff a warm welcome when you meet them!



Cristina is a graduate of UH-Clear Lake. She is a parishioner of St. Francis Cabrini and helps in the RCIA children's program. Through the grace of God, as an aunt, catechist and teacher aide, she has been fortunate enough to work with children of all ages. Her experiences have instilled a desire to continue to help God's children and spread his message of Love.



Linda was the founder and executive director of Youth SOULutions, providing life skills, aftercare, mentoring, and community service opportunities for youth and families of Harris, Ventura and L.A. Counties. Her experience, education, and trust/faitth in God has allowed her to effectively lead teams of volunteers, mentors, and supporters. One teen at a time, they have reduced recidivism rates, while empowering high-risk youth to break the cycle of self-destruction and incarceration.

Hello Baby!

After a long wait, we are delighted to announce that little Garza is finally here! Please say hello to Santiago Rafael Garza! He was born on January 9th to our wonderful associate director Alejandra and her husband Luis. He is an absolute sweet heart! Baby, mommy, and daddy are all doing well, enjoying time together and appreciate everyone's best wishes and prayers!





THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
GALVESTON-HOUSTON

We are Hiring

Pastoral Minister

Special Youth Services
St. Dominic Chancery
2403 Holcombe Blvd
Houston, TX 77021



Summary:

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston is currently seeking a Pastoral Minister for the Special Youth Services department. The Pastoral Minister will be responsible for the coordinating sacramental preparation and celebration while also providing pastoral care to at-risk youth and/or juveniles. Supervises the development of volunteer programs for at-risk youth, recruits, trains, and supervises volunteers to work in those programs. Provides pastoral counseling for youth detained in local county Juvenile Probation facilities within the Archdiocese. Also works with juvenile justice personnel and other youth-serving agencies as appropriate which requires full COVID-19 vaccination status.

This position reports to the Director of Special Youth Services and will also interface with members of Archdiocesan and parish staff, as appropriate.

Qualifications:

Required:

Bachelor's Degree (Theology, Social Work or a related field)

Two or four years' experience in Catechesis and Youth Ministry

Strong interpersonal relation, communication, organization and execution skills

Group facilitation, program development and facilitation skills

Computer literacy

Must have reliable transportation, a state issued driver's license

Must be able to carry 25-50 pounds

Preferred:

Master's Degree (Theology, Social Work or a related field)

Bilingual English/Spanish preferred

Active Catholic in good standing with the Church

Qualified candidates are encouraged to send a resume, letter of interest, and salary history to Franchelle Lee at flee@archgh.org with "Pastoral Minister, Special Youth Services" in the subject field.

With Gratitude

Special Youth Services would like to thank those who have blessed us these past few months. We thank them for strengthening the ministry and for extending their kindness to the youth we serve: Archdiocese Correctional Ministry and Office of the Aging, the Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition, Youth Solutions, the Sisters of Incarnate Word, and the A-Team at Leadership Academy.

Would your group like to reach out to SYS youth? Please contact us at sys@archgh.org or (713) 741-8739.

While we as SYS staff and volunteers minister in facilities, the youth are not the only people we interact with. Facility staff are an important part of our ministry. They take care of the youth and ensure that volunteers have what they need to conduct services. Summer is designated “Staff Appreciation Season” at SYS and this year we continued this tradition by gifting staff at all facilities with a chocolate bar accompanied by a note of thanks from our volunteers and prayers. We are very grateful for all the hard work they do and the assistance they give us at each visit.

Ministry Spotlight

The Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) seeks to provide a home for young adults within the Catholic Church and accompany young adults in their journey with Christ through their late teens, 20s, and 30s.

YACM seeks to bring a Catholic presence to the colleges and universities located within the archdiocese. Through Catholic Newman Centers, we seek to create environments where Catholic students can find community, encounter Christ in prayer and the sacraments, and be formed as disciples of Jesus. We also seek to evangelize the entire academic community and invite others into the joy, fulfillment, and truth of living the Gospel. The Office staffs

Catholic Campus Ministry at University of Houston, Rice University, Texas Southern University, Sam Houston State University, and Galveston Newman Center, which serves three colleges near Galveston Island.

The YACM Office serves, supports, works, and responds to the needs of the parish based young adult groups both in English and in Spanish. Our goal is to provide resources, events, trainings, and support to young adults and those serving young adults.

For office information please visit: www.archgh.org/yacm or contact us at yacm@archgh.org or call (713) 741-8778.

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic Campus Ministry Student Centers

University of Houston Catholic Newman Center

4305 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Houston, TX 77004
www.uhcatholic.org
newman@central.uh.edu
713-748-2529

Sam Houston State University Catholic Student Center

1310 17th St.
Huntsville, TX 77340
www.shsu-catholic.org
info.shsucatholic@gmail.com
936-291-2620

Galveston Catholic Newman Center

Serving Texas A&M Univ., UTMB, Galveston
College, & College of the Mainland
602 Seawolf Pkwy, Suite B
Galveston, TX 77550
www.archgh.org/galvestonnewman
gal.newmancenterum@gmail.com
409-740-3797

Rice Catholic Student Center

1703 Bolsover St.
Houston, TX 77005
catholicism.rice.edu
ministry@catholicism.rice.edu
713-526-3809

TSU Catholic Newman Center

3535 Wheeler Ave.
Houston, TX 77004
www.tsunewmancenter.com
tsunewman@gmail.com
713-747-7595

University of St. Thomas

3800 Montrose Blvd.
Houston, TX 77006
www.stthom.edu/campusministry
campusministry@stthom.edu
713-525-3589

www.archgh.org/yacm | 713-741-8778 | yacm@archgh.org



Volunteers Needed

Our facilities in need of **weekly Bible Study volunteers** are located all around the Archdiocese!

·Downtown Houston

·Katy

·Clear Lake

·Angleton

Requirements:

·Ages 21 & Up

·Pass a criminal background check

·Complete required SYS and county trainings

·Be up to date with Safe Environment

Can't commit weekly? There are many ways you can volunteer for SYS. Do you:

Sing? Do art? Play an instrument? Play in a band? Teach vocational training? Garden? Speak more than one language? Volunteer for a special event! We will work with you to share your talents with our youth!

Facilities where special events can be held are the ones listed above and ones in:

·Richmond

·New Waverly

·Texas City

Requirements:

·Ages 21 & Up

·Pass a criminal background check

·Be up to date with Safe Environment

Not 21 yet? You can still help (and get service hours)! We need:

·Groups to make Hope Bags

·Graphic artists

·Content creator

·Help around the office

·Reflection authors (see ad below)

Current volunteer?

Invite a friend! You are the best way we recruit so make sure to reach out to someone you think may be interested in serving our youth!

Contact sys@archgh.org if you feel a call to SYS!

SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH YOUTH IN DETENTION CENTERS

There are over 1,000 young people ages 10-17 in the juvenile justice system in Harris and surrounding counties. Along with offering Bible Study and prayer, Special Youth Services puts together a reflection newsletter that is given to every youth in all the facilities. We invite YOU to contribute to this well-received resource!

Once you sign up, you will be put on a rotating schedule and will be given your reading in advance. This is open to ages Jr. High and up! For more details, email sys@archgh.org or call (713) 741-8779. You can also visit us at www.archgh.org/sys. Scan the QR code to give us a like on our Facebook page!





Dear brother/sister in Christ,
I just want to let you know that you are loved and prayed for when you feel lonely, sad or angry, remain in **HOPE**.
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths."
(Proverbs 3: 5-6)
I pray that you will find peace in your heart, that you are not alone, and you are in our prayers and thoughts.
May God bless you with his love and grace, and grant you your heart's desire.
— MANT —



Hope Bags

As part of the ministry, SYS provides Hope Bags to the youth in facilities throughout the year. Hope Bags are decorated paper lunch bags filled with handwritten letters, snacks and word puzzles acting as gifts of love and hope from those in "the free" world to youth in facilities. We assemble and handout Hope Bags for youth throughout the year, Christmas, Easter, Back to School and other special events. In an effort to reach as many children as we can, we would like to invite you to participate in this special project. The creation and assembly of Hope Bags with your students/friends can serve as a community service project, a family project, an introduction to catholic social teachings and a reminder of the Beatitudes. Your involvement will be greatly appreciated by the ministry, but most of all by the youth. During difficult times away from their family and friends, the youth look forward to reading a heartfelt letter of hope, as well as enjoying some snacks.

If you are interested or would like more information, contact us at sys@archgh.org, (713) 741-8779 or scan/click on the QR code:



Donations Needed!

Special Youth Services holds various activities and celebrations throughout the year, encouraging youth to grow in and learn of God's love. Since covid restrictions were lifted, we have been able to continue many in-person activities. We are ever grateful for any and all donations to our ministry as well as Bibles, prayer cards (not laminated), Hope Bags and snack. If you or a group would like to donate to our ministry, please contact us at sys@archgh.org or 713-741-8739. Thank you!



Youth Prayers from Saintly Saturday 2023

Blue Mass

The annual Blue Mass honoring Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Personnel was celebrated on September 24, 2023. We send our prayers and support to all those who work to keep our city safe and our justice system fair.

A Prayer to St. Michael for Protection

Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Red Mass

The annual Red Mass honoring lawyers and judges was celebrated on November 8, 2023 and was attended by judges, lawyers, public officials, law faculty, and law students. We send our prayers and support to all those who work for justice for all.

St. Thomas More, pray for them!



STEPS FOR STUDENTS 5K RUN/WALK FEBRUARY 10, 2024

REGISTER NOW



For more information scan the QR Code above or visit www.steps4students.org.



OPEN HOUSE

FEBRUARY 17, 2024
1-3 PM

Meet The Faculty, Students,
Parents, Business Partners

Learn About Career & Technical
Education (CTE) Pathways And Programs!

Tour the campus!



Called to Serve?

Have you thought about how to serve God? SYS would invite you to seek where God is calling you to serve. Whether you are already involved with ministering to youth, or if you are discerning whether God is calling you to serve His youth, then Foundational training offered by the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition would be of great benefit to you.

The program offers different tracks for those called to minister with the detained and imprisoned. If you are considering SYS, there is a track offered for those serving juveniles. Participants are guided through videos and reflection questions allowing opportunities for discernment, faith sharing, and empirical realities of this type of service. This training is meant to equip you with many useful skills needed when encountering youth in detention. If you are interested in this training, you will find more information below.



Catholic Prison Ministries
COALITION

FOUNDATIONAL TRAINING JUVENILE DETENTION MINISTRY

*Feel **called to minister to youth** affected by incarceration or detention? Join a cohort to strengthen and find support in ministry!*



Thursdays: Feb 15 & 22
Mar 7, 14 & 21, April 4



4:00 - 5:30 pm (PT) + time for
assignments between sessions



Cohort meets virtually



Program cost covered thanks to the
generosity of a family foundation



Apply Today! Scan or click on
the QR code to apply.

SIGN UP





Café CATHOLICA

Lite with the Sisters of Life *from* NEW YORK

"LET LOVE SHOW YOU WHO YOU ARE"

FEB 15, 2024 6:30-8:45 pm

St. Theresa Memorial Park
6622 Haskell Street, Houston, TX 77007

www.archgh.org/cafecatholica

AGENDA

6:30 pm: Mass
7:00 pm: Dinner
7:30 pm: Talk
8:30 pm: Closing Prayer



SILENT RETREAT SERIES

SUNDAY,
FEB 18, 2024

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL
Discover what God wants

📍 St. Mary's Seminary

- Lunch and Spiritual Direction Opportunities Provided
- These retreats are for unmarried young adults ages 18-35.

REGISTER TODAY



RACHEL'S VINEYARD

A CATHOLIC WEEKEND RETREAT
FOR WOMEN & MEN
SUFFERING AFTER ABORTION

February 23-25, 2024

CONTACT JULIE,
JDUMALET@ARCHGH.ORG OR
CINDY, CINDY@RVHOUSTON.ORG
WITH QUESTIONS & TO REGISTER

All inquiries confidential



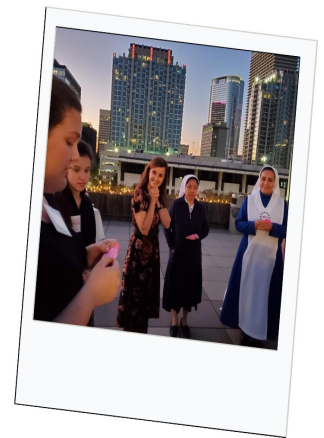
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
GALVESTON-HOUSTON



February 10 @ 9am - 5pm
Villa de Matel Convent

Take a break from the everyday hustle and bustle
and escape into a spiritual retreat!

- Explore a beautiful convent
- Get to know other Catholic high schoolers
- Listen to awe-inspiring vocation stories from sisters and consecrated women
- And, of course, spend time with Jesus in prayer



VOCATIONS
REGISTER TODAY



FOREVER HEALING
SAN JOSÉ CLINIC

- San José Clinic provides healing through quality healthcare and education with respect and compassion for those with limited access to care.
- Founded in 1922 with a donation of \$59 and is still serving the community 100 years later!
- Serves the uninsured and underserved throughout the Greater Houston area.
- One of the leading charity clinic providers of primary and specialty medical and dental care, as well as vision, laboratory, and pharmacy services.
- Visit sanjoseclinic.org to learn more.



LA PERSPECTIVA DE UN JOVEN

Una conversación entre el diácono Fernando y un hermanito en Cristo, J.D.

Diácono Fernando: ¿Cuánto tiempo tienes aquí en Gulf Coast Trades Center?

J.D.: Cinco meses.

DF: Cómo era tu relación con Dios antes de venir a la instalación?

J.D.: Apenas empezando. Es el comienzo de una nueva historia con Dios.

DF: ¿Cómo es ahora?

J.D.: He llegado muy lejos. Un trabajo en desarrollo. Trabajando en mí mismo.

Dios me contesta. Bendición tras bendición. He llegado lejos.

DF: ¿Cómo te ha ayudado SYS (el estudio bíblico con el diácono Mike) con tu relación con/conocimiento de Dios?

J.D.: Las lecturas. Siento cada vez que tengo un problema en la semana, la lectura va a hablar sobre eso. Como las lecturas de la semana pasada, humildad, y yo tenía problemas con mi temperamento.

DF: ¿Por qué vas al estudio bíblico cada semana?

J.D.: Para mantenerme más cerca a Dios. Y para aprender más sobre mí mismo.

DF: ¿Puedes explicar lo que es Bible Bowl?

J.D.: Era una competencia que te mantiene alerta. Se trata de conocer a Dios e invitar a otros a conocerlo. La próxima semana tuvimos una semana más grande [en el Estudio bíblico].

DF: Dinos sobre tu experiencia ese día.

J.D.: Sentía que estaba en las manos de Dios. No me sabía algunas preguntas pero el instinto me hizo lanzarme y lo hice bien. Tenía dudas sobre competir debido a los demás, pero tenía ganas de ver cómo les salía y cómo aprendían.

DF: ¿Cómo te sentiste cuando ganó tu equipo?

J.D.: Me sentí bien conmigo mismo. Más cerca a Dios. Como: "Soy hijo de Dios."

DF: ¿Qué mensaje tienes para jóvenes para invitarlos a tener una relación con Dios?

J.D.: Pregúntales: "¿Qué está pasando en tu vida?" La biblia la tiene.

DF: ¿Qué mensaje tienes para jóvenes que están tomando el camino equivocado?

J.D.: Encuentren una mejor manera. La manera equivocada es un camino feo y oscuro, como estar perdido en el bosque mirando alrededor. No sabes adónde vas, estás atorado.

DF: ¿Qué mensaje tienes para los padres de familia?

J.D.: Traten de acercarse a sus hijos. No traten de empujarlos al camino correcto. Hablen con ellos y dales un empujoncito suave.

DF: Hay algo más que te gustaría decirles a nuestros lectores?

J.D.: Expíate. De la lectura de hoy: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29.



La perspectiva de un voluntario

Diácono Mike Krall-Gulf Coast Trades Center

Hace unos seis años, la Arquidiócesis estaba distribuyendo asignaciones de ministerio a los candidatos diaconales. Temía a la idea de que me podrían poner en el ministerio de prisión. La idea me hacía terriblemente incómodo, y eso me asustaba más, porque Dios suele mandarme a lugares a donde no quiero ir. Efectivamente, mi asignación era trabajar con Special Youth Services para servir a los que están en el sistema de justicia juvenil. Alabado sea Dios por como me empuja hacia donde no quiero estar.

Estaba asignado a Gulf Coast Trades Center (GCTC), una institución en New Waverly que se enfoca en la educación de niños en edad de preparatoria en oficios como reparación de automóviles, carpintería, albañilería o arte culinaria. Con las habilidades que aprenden, son capaces de encontrar carreras que valgan la pena y convertirse rápidamente en adultos independientes.

Todo eso suena bonito en papel, pero yo no tenía idea de cómo manejar esta tarea. Iba cada semana para dirigir un estudio bíblico con un grupo pequeño de muchachos. Empezó con dos y lentamente creció a

grupos de hasta 12. Espero que no lo hayan visto, pero cada vez que hacía el viaje, estaba nervioso y me preguntaba cómo iba a enseñarles algo. Las juntas iban bien, pero admito que era difícil para mí.

Probablemente lo que me sacó de mi incomodidad fue una oración de uno de los chicos. Al final de cada estudio bíblico, yo cerraba dirigiendo una oración. Una vez, un participante me preguntó si podía orar después de mí. Cuando acepté, ofreció un hermoso agradecimiento. Lo que absolutamente me derritió fue cómo empezó: "Gracias, Dios, por mandarnos a esta gente a reconocernos." Él no le dio gracias a nuestro Padre por enviar a gente a enseñarles o divertirse con ellos. Este joven le dio gracias a Dios por el simple hecho de *reconocer* su existencia. Aprendí tal lección de su oración. Mi éxito en este papel no era nada que *hice* en el estudio bíblico. No había necesidad de discursos bíblicos elocuentes. No necesitaba impresionarlos. En cambio, lo que necesitaba hacer era simplemente estar presente. Mi motivación, mi preparación, mi trabajo con ellos era todo un recordatorio que son amados por otros y que nuestro amor por ellos representa el amor de Dios.

Ese momento de oración era uno de los momentos más impactantes en SYS para mí, pero ninguna experiencia ha sido más divertido que nuestro reciente “Bible Bowl.” El personal de SYS se unió a nosotros para presentar un programa de juegos en el sitio, ¡completo con timbres! Varios de los residentes participaron en la competencia, creando cuatro equipos que compitieron para ganar el gran premio: ¡una cena caliente de Burger King! Mientras se mostraba cada pregunta, los jugadores hacían clic en un timbre. El primero en contestar gritaba la respuesta correcta. Correcto o no, había emoción y risa con cada respuesta. Para mí, era un gozo ser testigo de toda la diversión. Los momentos más agradables era ver las interacciones de los jóvenes. Los jugadores regocijaron cuando daban respuestas correctas a preguntas difíciles. Cuando uno de los chicos con menos confianza respondía a una pregunta correctamente, todos vitoreaban como si hubiera anotado un touchdown. A veces me preocupaba que podrían ser demasiado sus celebraciones de saltos y gestos de victoria con el puño, pero después que terminaba cada ronda, los equipos felizmente se daban la mano y se felicitaban. Cada reporte de los chicos desde ese día ha sido para compartir qué tanto se divirtieron y para preguntar cuándo iba a suceder de nuevo. A pesar que su cena regular de la instalación concluyó poco antes de que llegara la comida de Burger King, el equipo ganador estaba entusiasmado de tener la comida adicional. Se la comieron victoriosamente.

De alguna manera, seis años en GCTC se han pasado volando. Franchelle, Alejandra, el diácono Dan, el diácono Fernando y ahora la hermana Symphonie me han aguantado a mí y a mi tonto sentido de humor. En un mundo donde muchas empresas son organizaciones ineficientes y sobrecargadas, SYS es un equipo pequeño pero poderoso que ha servido a miles de manera efectiva. El amor de Dios es evidente en lo que hace el personal y en lo que ofrecen de sí mismos. Todo los voluntarios llevamos ese mismo amor a los jóvenes que tan desesperadamente necesitan tener alguna conciencia de su valor a los ojos de su Padre celestial. ¡Muchas gracias a todos ustedes que sirven junto a mí!

“No había necesidad de discursos bíblicos elocuentes. No necesitaba impresionarlos. En cambio, lo que necesitaba hacer era simplemente estar presente.”

Enfoque en ministerio

La Oficina de Jóvenes Adultos y Pastoral Universitaria busca proporcionar un hogar para jóvenes adultos dentro de la Iglesia Católica y acompañar a los jóvenes adultos en su jornada con Cristo hasta los últimos años de la adolescencia, los 20 y los 30 años.

La Oficina de Jóvenes Adultos y Pastoral Universitaria busca traer una presencia católica a los colegios y universidades ubicados dentro de la Arquidiócesis. A través de los Centros Católicos Newman, buscamos crear entornos donde los estudiantes católicos puedan encontrar comunidad, encontrar a Cristo en la oración y los sacramentos, y formarse como discípulos de Jesús. También buscamos evangelizar a toda la comunidad académica e invitar a otros a la alegría, la realización y la verdad de vivir el Evangelio. La Oficina cuenta con el

Ministerio de Pastoral Universitaria Católica en los campus de la Universidad de Houston, la Universidad Rice, la Universidad *Texas Southern University*, la Universidad *Sam Houston State* y el Centro Newman en Galveston, que atiende a 3 universidades cerca de la isla de Galveston.

La oficina de Jóvenes Adultos y Pastoral Universitaria sirve, apoya, trabaja y responde a las necesidades de los grupos de jóvenes adultos parroquiales tanto en inglés como en español. Nuestro objetivo es proporcionar recursos, eventos, capacitaciones y apoyo a los jóvenes adultos y a quienes sirven a los jóvenes adultos.

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic Campus Ministry Student Centers		
University of Houston Catholic Newman Center 4305 Martin Luther King Blvd. Houston, TX 77004 www.uhccatholic.org newman@central.uh.edu 713-748-2529	Sam Houston State University Catholic Student Center 1310 17th St. Huntsville, TX 77340 www.shsu-catholic.org info.shsucatholic@gmail.com 936-291-2620	Galveston Catholic Newman Center Serving Texas A&M Univ., UTMB, Galveston College, & College of the Mainland 602 Seawolf Pkwy, Suite B Galveston, TX 77550 www.archgh.org/galvestonnewman gal.newmancenterum@gmail.com 409-740-3797
Rice Catholic Student Center 1703 Bolsover St. Houston, TX 77005 catholics.rice.edu ministry@catholics.rice.edu 713-526-3809	TSU Catholic Newman Center 3535 Wheeler Ave. Houston, TX 77004 www.tsunewmancenter.com tsunewman@gmail.com 713-747-7595	University of St. Thomas 3800 Montrose Blvd. Houston, TX 77006 www.stthom.edu/campusministry campusministry@stthom.edu 713-525-3589

www.archgh.org/yacm | 713-741-8778 | yacm@archgh.org



Para obtener información sobre la oficina, visite: www.archgh.org/yacm o contáctenos en yacm@archgh.org o llame al (713) 741-8778.

COMPARTIR TU FE CON JÓVENES EN CENTROS DE DETENCIÓN

Hay más de 1.000 jóvenes de edades 10-17 en el sistema de justicia juvenil en los condados de Harris y cercanos. Además de ofrecer Estudio Bíblico y oración, Special Youth Services hace un boletín de reflexiones que se le da a cada joven en las instalaciones. ¡Te invitamos a que TÚ contribuyas a este recurso que es bien recibido!

Una vez que te enscribas, te pondremos en un horario rotativo y se te dará la escritura con tiempo. ¡Está abierto a edades de Jr. High y adelante! Para más detalles, mándanos un email a sys@archgh.org o llámanos al (713) 741-8779. También nos puedes visitar en www.archgh.org/sys. ¡Escanea el código de QR para darnos un "like" en nuestra página de Facebook!





The Woman who Always Prays

"Rose Philippine Duchesne came to the wilds of North America when anything west of Pittsburgh was considered uncharted wilderness. She came up the Mississippi to Missouri and established a school at St. Charles as early as 1818, while St. Elizabeth Seton was doing her work in the eastern United States. She is the foundress of the American branch of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

She was born in Grenoble, France, in 1769, her father a successful businessman. She was educated by the Visitation nuns and, although her father opposed her decision, she entered the Visitation Order in 1788, in the middle of the French Revolution. She was not able to make her profession because of the disruption of the Revolution and had to return home when the Visitation sisters were expelled from their convents.

During the Revolution, she cared for the sick and poor, helped fugitive priests, visited prisons, and taught children. After the Revolution, she tried to reorganize the Visitation community but was unsuccessful, so she offered the empty convent to St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and entered the Sacred Heart Order herself. When the bishop of New Orleans, William Du Bourg, requested nuns for his huge Louisiana diocese, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne came to the United States, arriving in New Orleans in 1818.

She and her four nuns were sent to St. Charles, Missouri, where she immediately opened a school; then at Florissant, she built a convent, an orphanage, a parish school, a school for Indians, a boarding academy, and a novitiate for her order. In 1827, she was in St. Louis where she founded an orphanage, a convent, and a parish school. Her energy and ideas were prodigious. When she was seventy-two years old, she founded a mission school for Indian girls in Kansas and spent much of her time there nursing the sick.

Her last years were spent at St. Charles, a model and inspiration to those around her, facing all the hardships of pioneer work. She died on November 18, 1852, at the age of eighty-three and was canonized in 1988. She was truly the 'missionary of the American frontier,' one that her beloved Potawatomi Indians called <Quah-kah-ka-num-ad>, 'Woman-who-prays-always.' Her Feast Day is November 18. Her patronage is perseverance amid adversity."

<https://www.strpdparish.org/our-patroness>

Contact us:

VACANT

Pastoral Minister



Franchelle Lee Stewart

Director

(713)741-8739

flee@archgh.org

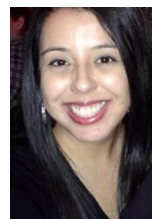


Linda Love

Pastoral Minister

(818) 632-6861

llove@archgh.org



Alejandra Maya Garza

Associate Director

(713)741-8779

amaya@archgh.org



Cristina González

Administrative Assistant

(713) 741-8739

cgonzalez@archgh.org